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ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: Simplified interpretations of brain function portraying rationality solely in the left hemisphere and creativity solely in the right are incorrect, but the two sides of the brain do differ in important ways. Researchers have discovered that: In the vast majority of right handers, speech is almost entirely confined to the left hemisphere. Right hemisphere processes add emotional and humorous overtones important for understanding the full meaning of oral and written communication. The two hemispheres differ in their perceptual roles but both sides are involved in the creation and appreciation of art and music. Both hemispheres are involved in thinking, logic, and reasoning. The right hemisphere seems to play a special role in emotion. If students are emotionally engaged, both sides of the brain will participate in the educational process regardless of subject matter. Resource Information Service (RIS) provides ASCD members access to research and sources of information on selected topics. The information is available through RIS-sponsored research syntheses, the RIS column in "Update," and the quarterly publication "Curriculum Update." (Author)

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Highlights of Research on Right and Left Hemispheres of the Brain

Simplified interpretations of brain function portraying rationality solely in the left hemisphere and creativity solely in the right are incorrect, but the two sides of the brain do differ in important ways.

Researchers have discovered that:

- In the vast majority of right handers, speech is almost entirely confined to the left hemisphere.
- Right hemisphere processes add emotional and humorous overtones important for understanding the full meaning of oral and written communication.
- The two hemispheres differ in their perceptual roles but both sides are involved in the creation and appreciation of art and music.
- Both hemispheres are involved in thinking, logic, and reasoning.
- The right hemisphere seems to play a special role in emotion. If students are emotionally engaged, both sides of the brain will participate in the educational process regardless of subject matter.

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